

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

SALTBURN & MARSKE-BY-THE-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1943, which has been prepared on the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health's Circulars No. 2773 and 10/44.

The vital statistics furnished for the year by the Registrar-General show the number of births to have been above the pre-war level, although fewer than in 1941 and 1942. The number of deaths, however, was only just exceeded in 1941 and are about twenty per cent. above the yearly average before the war. The infant mortality rate similarly has been proportionally increased.

Of the deaths during the year almost two-thirds occurred at the ages of 65 years and upwards, a greater proportion than in any of the neighbouring districts. Between the ages of 45 years and 64 the proportion of deaths averages 25% over the Combined Districts, the figure for this district being slightly below this. The remaining deaths, about 12% of all deaths in this district, occur under the age of 45 years, and are more to be deplored than the larger number beyond the age of 65, when the normal "three score years and ten" is more or less completed.

In investigating which are the chief causes of death a very different result is obtained if one takes deaths at all ages or if one limits the enquiry to deaths under the age of 45 years; with the former one finds that diseases of the arteries, hæmorrhage into the brain, or heart disease, are together responsible for almost one-third of all deaths. Under the age of 45 these causes are responsible only for about one death in thirteen; first place is now shared in this district by weakness at birth due to congenital debility or to premature birth, and by accidents, which together account for almost one-half the deaths in this age-group.

Notifiable infectious disease has shown moderate prevalence during the year but has not (except for pneumonia) caused any deaths. There was no enteric fever nor puerperal fever. Measles was epidemic, with 99 cases, and there were 25 cases of whooping-cough. Scarlet fever, as in the last five years, was relatively light, with 8 cases only. Of diphtheria only one case was notified, and that in an adult, and one may justly conclude that the absence of any case of diphtheria in a child since 1941 is related to the almost complete protection of the child population by Immunisation.

### Children Immunised against Diphtheria.

Number immunised		Guisborough U.D.	Loftus U.D.	Redcar Borough	Saltburn & Marske U.D.	Skelton & Brotton U.D.
at end of 1941	...	737	493	2,235	1,121	1,419
during 1942	...	429	568	607	863	304
during 1943	...	145	223	890	176	410
Total immunised 1935—1943	...	1,311	1,284	3,732	2,160	2,133
Estimated number of these						
now over 14 years of age	...	60	60	180	900	110
Estimated percentage of children under						
15 years of age now immunised		69	66	67	98	63

During 1943 only thirteen cases of diphtheria in children under the age of 15 years were notified in the Combined Districts (compared with 33 in 1942), and of these, four children had been immunised, while nine cases occurred among the minority of children who had not been immunised. The one death from diphtheria in the Combined Districts occurred in a non-immunised child. I would repeat what I have stated in previous annual reports, that it has been proved that immunisation lessens by several-fold the risk of the individual child contracting diphtheria, and by still more the risk of a fatal termination if he does contract the illness. The lessened number of cases of diphtheria in 1943 cannot be ascribed definitely to immunisation: the disease naturally recurs in waves and it is probable that now we are in the trough of the waves, affording a good chance for every child to have the benefit of immunisation before the next peak of diphtheria comes along.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis (10) is still high, although rather less than in 1942, but the number of deaths in the year from this disease is not excessive. The following table shows the recent trend of the deaths from tuberculosis in the Combined Districts:—

### Deaths from Tuberculosis in Combined Districts.

	(2-year periods).							
Deaths from :	1928-9	1930-1	1932-3	1934-5	1936-7	1938-9	1940-41	1942-3
Tuberculosis of lungs :	63	47	42	38	38	44	50	53
Tuberculosis elsewhere :	27	13	17	15	14	11	9	7
Total	90	60	59	53	52	55	59	60

The total deaths from tuberculosis occurring in the Combined Districts are seen to fall from 90 in the earliest two-year period to 52 in the period 1936-1937, and thereafter to rise until in 1942-1943 they just surpassed the number ten years earlier. If however the deaths from tuberculosis of the lungs are taken separately from the deaths from tuberculosis in other parts of the body the important point is seen that deaths from tuberculosis apart from that of the lungs have continued their steady decrease, unaffected apparently by the war, and the rise in deaths from tuberculosis since 1937 is due entirely to tuberculosis of the lungs. There is a difference of origin of the two forms of the disease: tuberculosis of the lungs is practically always due to infection from another human case, while tuberculosis of other parts of the body is in a considerable proportion of cases due to infection from cow's milk. It would seem therefore possible that improvement in tuberculosis of cattle has been maintained during the war, while there have been more deaths from the human form of the disease.

In recent annual reports I have referred to the fact that the last few months of life of the great majority of persons dying from tuberculosis of the lungs are spent in their own homes, where opportunities for spreading the infection are at their greatest. In 1943 in the Combined Districts 27 persons died from tuberculosis of the lungs: of these, five (18½%) died in institutions: the remainder, in their own homes.

**Water-supply:** Apart from a few isolated houses supplied from wells or springs, the whole of the district is supplied with water by the Cleveland Water Co. Owing to the drought the storage capacity of this Company became almost exhausted in the autumn and there was consequently considerable shortage of water during parts of September and October. There were no complaints as to the quality of the water during the period when the supply was sufficient.

According to information furnished by your Surveyor 94% of the dwelling houses in the district have a direct piped supply, 6% get their supply from stand pipes, and 0·3% from wells or springs.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. R. GIBSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Guisborough,

3rd July, 1944.

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### Vital Statistics for 1943.

	<b>1943.</b>	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.
Number of Births ... ..	95	113	110	74	102
Number of Deaths ... ..	116	95	117	96	107
Infant Mortality Rate ...	63	44	44	79	59

Notifications received in 1943: Scarlet fever, 8; diphtheria, 1; cerebro-spinal fever, 4; erysipelas, 5; pneumonia, 19; dysentery, 1; measles, 99; whooping-cough, 25.

Tuberculosis (new cases) in 1943: 4 pulmonary; 6 non-pulmonary.

